

National Republican

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Editor and Proprietor W. J. MURTAUGH.

We cannot undertake to return rejected manuscripts. Contributors will therefore preserve copies.

All communications, whether or not intended for publication, should be addressed to W. J. Murtagh, Proprietor, National Republican, Washington, D. C.

INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

The chairman of the committee on the proposed International Industrial Exhibition, Mr. Henry D. Cooke, has, as will be seen by an advertisement in another column, announced a meeting of the general committee to be held at Lincoln Hall, Christian Association Building, corner of Ninth and D streets, this evening, when business of importance will be presented for consideration.

It is desirable that every member of the committee should attend the meeting to-night, and not only those who have accepted this designated honor, but all the citizens of the District interested in the proposed exhibition, or, in other words, in the future prosperity of the capital.

The sub-committee to whom was intrusted the arrangement of the details of a report for the action of the general committee will submit a good account of their labors. Our citizens are already apprised of the liberal subscriptions made by a number of our leading merchants, and with united effort there can be no doubt of the success of the project. It would be very strange if Washington city has not executive talent sufficient to carry out the plan proposed. No one will for a moment question the ability of the gentlemen having charge of the preliminaries or doubt that they will be equal to the task of the proposed exhibition.

What is most needed now is a large attendance of the public-spirited citizens of the District at Lincoln Hall this evening. The report of the sub-committee will impress all with the importance of the proposed exhibition.

There have been many great enterprises proposed to our citizens, but we do not hesitate to say that the projected industrial exhibition exceeds them all in importance.

The peculiar advantages of Washington city as a place in which to hold an American Industrial Exhibition consist in its convenient location, facility of access from the seaboard, and suitable grounds upon which buildings can be erected, but beyond all other places in its having the Smithsonian Institute and Patent Office; the one

the centre for the distribution of scientific knowledge, the other the repository of the

inventive genius.

At the great international exhibitions held in Europe, the Old World's stores of paintings, sculpture, objects of taste and virtue were displayed, together with specimens of long established manufacturing industries. Here the main attractions must be the display of machinery—of labor-saving inventions, of useful and improved implements for the purposes of agriculture and the industrial arts. To those more particularly will the attention of visitors from abroad be attracted, and to examine them with doubtless draw hither crowds of manufacturers, artisans, and persons of learning and leisure, from our own and foreign lands. We shall not forget entirely the beautiful, but can exhibit specimens of American works of art in painting, sculpture, and delicate fabrication that will compare favorably with any that modern artists or other countries can produce.

Such an exhibition can hardly fail of success and prove creditable to all concerned, as well as make our countrymen proud of their capital and the evidences of progress civilization to be seen here.

Again we earnestly recommend our citizens to give the project their encouragement by their attendance to-night at the Lincoln Hall meeting.

Personal.

Mrs. Belknap, the wife of the Secretary of War, arrived on Saturday, and is at the fine old mansion formerly occupied by Secretary Seward.

Mr. Scott Sidbons, at last advised, was at Buffalo, N. Y.

Hon. H. E. Bennett, of Colorado, is at the National.

Hon. George A. Halsey, of New Jersey, and Hon. D. W. Goode, of Massachusetts, are at the Elliott House.

Gen. T. C. Hindman, of Virginia, has written a letter in response to inquiries, stating that he does not intend to appoint a Senator in the place of Mr. Grimes, resigned, but will await the meeting of the Legislature.

Senator Buckingham, of Connecticut, is in the city.

Connection.—In the hurry of preparing for the press our voluminous report of the proceedings of the Board of Aldermen on Monday evening, two errors or "transpositions of matter" occurred, which are deserving of notice. The proceedings on the first "special order," which are inserted at the close of our report, by which the pay of the Fire Department is increased from about twenty to nearly forty thousand dollars, should have been inserted near the bottom of the first column, just before Mr. Moore's motion to proceed to the consideration of the next "special order"—the charges of Mr. Crane—in reference to which he submitted his resolutions—opposition to those which had been previously reported from the special committee, and near the head of the third column the testimony of John Donovan is mixed up with that of Andrew Gleason, doubles, to the confusion of all critical readers. The fault here is that the heading, "Testimony of John Donovan," should have been inserted as the fourteenth line of the said column.

Manual.—A PRACTICAL MANUAL FOR 1863, by Edward McPherson, L. L. D., Clerk of the House of Representatives of the United States, has just been published, and contains the same class of facts found in previous Manuals by the same author, the record being continued from the date of the close of the Manual for 1862 to the present time. The votes in Congress on the passage, and in the State Legislatures on the ratification, of the sixteenth amendment of the Constitution of the United States, decisions of the Supreme Court in the Texas and Mcardle cases, on the legal-tender act, &c., and the general political miscellany are among the contents of the present volume.

Butler's Thanksgiving Sermons.—We shall publish in the REPUBLICAN of tomorrow morning the eloquent and instructive discourses delivered by Rev. J. G. Butler, D. D., Chaplain of the United States House of Representatives, on Thanksgiving Day in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church, of which he is also pastor. Many of the congregation, and other friends of the reverend gentleman, who heard the sermon, have unitied in requesting its publicity—among them General James A. Ekin, A. S. Pratt, esq., Collier L. Lowry, Moore, and Mease, Matthews, Barclay, Clarke, and Pendleton.

New Publication.—"Wives and Widows; or The Broken Life," by Mrs. Ann E. Stephens, author of "Ruby Gray's Strategy," &c., published by T. B. Peterson & Co., Philadelphia. For sale by Joseph Shillington.

Meeting.—The meetings of the stockholders of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, which was to have been held on December 1st at Annapolis, have been postponed to Wednesday, December 18th.

[OFFICIAL]

By the President of the United States of America.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas by the proclamation of the President of the United States of the twelfth day of June last, the levying of discriminating duties on merchandise imported into the United States in vessels from the countries of its origin was discontinued.

And whereas satisfactory information has since been received by me that the levying of such duties on all merchandise imported into France in vessels of the United States, whether from the countries of its origin or from other countries, has been discontinued:

Now, therefore, I, U. S. Grant, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by an act of Congress of the seventh day of January, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, and by an act in addition thereto, dated twenty-fourth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight, do hereby declare and proclaim that on or after this date, France, long a discriminating importer into the United States, shall admit into the ports of France, on the terms aforesaid, the discriminating duties heretofore levied upon merchandise imported into the United States in French vessels, either from the countries of its origin or from any other country, shall be, and are, discontinued and abolished.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington this twentieth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixteen, and of the independence of the United States the ninety-fourth.

U. S. GRANT.

By the President : HAMILTON FISH, Secretary of State.

(Communicated.)

"Pity the Poor."

Washington, D. C., Nov. 15, 1863.

Editor National Republican.—Sir: Under

the head of "Pity the Poor," I read in the columns of the REPUBLICAN of the 16th instant an appeal to the citizens to reorganize the Provident Aid Society in this city. The call is certainly a loud one, for the cold weather having set in considerably earlier than usual, the almshouse, workhouse and jail are rapidly filling up, and at the present rates will soon be compelled to take their sign of "finished rooms."

The poor man's article suggested to my mind the following questions, which I would be pleased to hear answered by some among your thousands of readers: Who derives benefit from the arbitrary law which forbids a poor man who is willing to work, from getting a place where he can earn his living? Or, in other words, why should the city of Washington exact from a poor man a license fee of \$100 a year for the privilege of obtaining a scanty livelihood, by working for some one else, and not giving him a privilege?

Does the act of brutalizing an honest workman, by incarceraing him among the lowest of characters and depriving him of the support, simply for striving to live honorably, reflect on the corporation?

Which horn of the dilemma is preferable—to remand a man to be sent to the house-work as a punishment or to permit him to subsist on "The Life of Christ," and be sent up as a criminal?

Last night, it would be a blessing conferred upon the poor by the removal of this law who could not afford to pay for his release.

Which horn of the dilemma is preferable—to remand a man to be sent to the house-work as a punishment or to permit him to subsist on "The Life of Christ," and be sent up as a criminal?

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